



**January 2005**

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## Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the January edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of December and inform you of upcoming January events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

## World Report: Outlining Government Relief to Tsunami Victims

It has been merely two weeks since the world first learned of the 9.0 earthquake which triggered massive tsunamis across South and South-west Asia, Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya. The affects of these tsunamis have devastated the region and left a death toll topping 150,000.

As many as 5 million people now lack basic provisions- clean water, shelter, food, sanitation and health care. Water in each country is likely contaminated with diseases such as cholera, dysentery, malaria and fever. The region is in desperate need of assistance and now is the time to open our hearts.

On New Year's Eve, President Bush responded by offering America's support in relief and recovery assistance. The \$350 Million pledge by the United States brings to \$3 billion the total pledges from donor countries and the World Bank for the relief effort. Our nation has also provided more than 3,000 tons of rice to the U.N. World Food Program.



The military relief effort to the tsunami disaster is now the largest relief effort since the 1948 Berlin airlift. Among the contributions of the U.S. military to the relief effort are the nearly 20 military ships deployed and 10,000 Marines and sailors mobilized for this effort including the USNS

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Mercy, a 1,000-bed hospital ship. The U.S. Air Force has dropped more than 430,000 pounds of supplies from a fleet of cargo planes dispatched to the region. Finally, six U.S. warships have been deployed with machines capable of producing more than 100,000 gallons of water per day.



Last week, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Florida Governor Jeb Bush toured the disaster-stricken areas in Asia and former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton were asked to head an effort to encourage support through private contributions to nongovernmental organizations.

Following a season of joy for many Americans, the time has come to consider how best to assist the victims of this tragedy. I urge you to check the websites of the U.S. Agency for International Development ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)) and the USA Freedom Corps ([www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov)) to see the many ways you can help.

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## Protecting Your Family: Creating a National Sex Offender Database

This month, at the start of the 109th Congress, I introduced legislation to create a national sex offender database. The National Sex Offender Registry Act would use existing law enforcement records submitted by State Attorneys General under the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act. This legislation would cull the data submitted into a nationwide registry available to anyone with Internet access.

There is currently no accessible nationwide database of sexual offenders available to ensure the safety of families across America. Since sex offenders do not stop at state lines, registries of sex offenders should not stop there either. If you are a parent and are moving to a state without a sex offender database, you have no way of knowing whether or not your neighbor has a criminal sexual history. That is unacceptable.

The Jacob Wetterling Act requires that any person who is convicted of any crime against a minor, or who is convicted of a sexually violent offense against anyone, register a current address with a designated state law enforcement agency for at least 10 years; and a person who is judged to be a sexually violent predator to register with a state law enforcement agency for their entire lifetime.

The National Sex Offender Registry Act would create a database available to anyone with Internet access and would allow users to choose the geographic radius in which to search the location of predators relative to their current and/or future residence.

States, which do not comply within three years of the enactment of this Act, will lose funds totaling 25% of those allocated to them by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. In turn, the states that do comply will receive additional funds forfeited by those non-compliant states.

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I first introduced the National Sex Offender Registry Act in March of 2004. This legislation passed in the U.S. Senate in November but was not voted upon in the House of Representatives. I am optimistic that this legislation will receive the debate it deserves in the 109th Congress.

## In Washington: Waiting List Started for Inaugural Tickets

With the 55th Presidential Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony only two weeks away, I have received many requests for tickets from citizens of the Fifth District. Although each congressional office receives only a finite number of inaugural tickets, I am pleased to have been able to accommodate most of the requests made.



At the present time, I have begun a waiting list for any future requests from constituents interested in attending the Inauguration of President George W. Bush. While we may have some cancellations, my allotment of tickets is currently obligated.

If you are planning to travel to Washington, D.C. for the 55th Presidential Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony and would like to attend other events such as inaugural balls, please contact the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC) directly at (202) 863-2005 online at [www.inaugural05.com](http://www.inaugural05.com).

## Serving the Future: 18 Fifth District Students Nominated to U.S. Service Academies

I recently had the honor of gathering my Academy Advisory Board at Heidelberg College to officially nominate eighteen students from the Fifth District to United States service academies. Every year, I, with the assistance of my Fifth District Academy Advisory Board, nominate qualified young men and women for appointments to the United States service academies; the United States Military Academy at West Point, the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Admission to the academies is a two-pronged process. In addition to the congressional nomination, a successful candidate for appointment must also complete the individual academy's admissions process. Applicants are evaluated on academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, physical ability, and character. Once nominated, the decision on whether to offer an appointment to a candidate rests with the respective academy admissions office.



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I was very pleased by each of the candidates for nomination and I am confident that the eighteen students who received nominations this year will be strong candidates for appointment to their respective academies. Each of the nominees are well-balanced students, gifted athletes, and active leaders in their community.



*Guests listen to Congressman Paul Gillmor (R–Old Fort) speak about the importance of serving our country.*

### 2004 Service Academy Nominees

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	CITY	COUNTY
Brandon W. Burner	Columbian H.S.	Tiffin	Seneca
Leslie A. Grant	St. Paul H.S.	Monroeville	Huron
Mary B. Guzowski	Columbian H.S.	Tiffin	Seneca
Jonathan L. Holman	Hopewell-Loudon H.S.	Fostoria	Seneca
Linda M. Lehmkuhle	St. John's H.S.	Delphos	Van Wert
Bradley J. Marzec	St. Francis de Sales H.S.	Rossford	Wood
Thomas E. McCoppin	New London H.S.	New London	Huron
James D. McKinney	Bowling Green H.S.	Bowling Green	Wood
Andrew J.M. Melnyk	Northwood H.S.	Northwood	Wood
John D. Moonshower	Van Wert H.S.	Ohio City	Van Wert
Jamison N. Moss	Delta Senior H.S.	Delta	Fulton
Dustin A. Nedolast	St. Wendelin H.S.	Tiffin	Seneca
Michael H. Persiani	St. John's Walsh Jesuit H.S.	Perrysburg	Wood
Levi J. Rupp	Archbold H.S.	Archbold	Fulton
Matthew J. Taynor	Swanton H.S.	Swanton	Fulton
Shawn M. Thompson	Perrysburg H.S.	Perrysburg	Wood
Quinten S. Wise	Anthony Wayne H.S.	Waterville	Lucas
Rosa M. Zartman	Wayne Trace Senior H.S.	Paulding	Paulding

## In Washington: 109th Congress Sworn into Office

On January 4, 2005, the 109th Congress was sworn into office. I was joined in Washington by my wife, former Ohio State Senator Karen Gillmor, and my twin sons Connor and Adam to receive the oath of office from Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL).



I am looking forward to the new Congress and continuing to work hard on issues important to every

*Rep. Gillmor is sworn in by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert with his wife Karen Gillmor and sons Adam and Connor looking on.*

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person in the Fifth District. I am proud of the accomplishments of the 108th Congress and I expect that the next two years will bring even better results for our country.

A few of the top issues facing Congress in the next year include ensuring fiscal responsibility in the federal budget, continuing the success of the War on Terror, reforming the tax system and strengthening retirement security. We have set an aggressive agenda and I look forward to working with my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to accomplish our goals.

Some of the major accomplishments of the 108th Congress are listed below:

### **Measures Signed into Law**

**H.R. 2622, FAIR AND ACCURATE CREDIT TRANSACTIONS ACT OF 2003.** This legislation provides consumers with the tools they need to fight identity theft and to ensure the accuracy of their credit reports while establishing permanent national credit reporting standards. At my request, this legislation also includes provisions which ensure your right to shop around for the best rate on a loan without fear of adverse effects on your credit score.

**H.R. 1474, CHECK CLEARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT.** I joined with 17 of my colleagues in introducing legislation modernizing the U.S. payments system by allowing check images to be transported electronically between financial institutions for payment, obviating the need for physical transfer of the original check which may not be possible in case of national emergencies.

**H.R. 1276, AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT ACT.** I joined with 31 of my colleagues in introducing legislation authorizing the Secretary of HUD to make grants to participating jurisdictions for downpayment assistance to low-income, first-time home buyers using the HOME program as a distribution mechanism.

**H.R. 395, DO-NOT-CALL IMPLEMENTATION ACT.** I joined with 24 of my colleagues in sponsoring this important legislation protecting consumers by strengthening regulations of the "do-not-call" registry of the Telemarketing Sales Rule.

**H.R. 1104, CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT.** I joined with my colleagues in passing legislation to greatly strengthen law enforcement's ability to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes committed against children, and codify the National AMBER Alert program.

**H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH TAX ACT OF 2003.** I joined with my colleagues in passing legislation to encourage consumer spending to boost the economic recovery while promoting investment by individuals and businesses that has led to economic growth and job creation.

**H.R. 1, PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003.** I joined with my colleagues in passing legislation to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and make important improvements to the program. H.R. 1 includes a Health Savings Accounts provision, which allows families to accumulate tax-free savings to pay for qualified medical expenses, increasing consumer resources for families.

### **Measures Passed by the House**

**H.R. 6, THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003.** This legislation provides a comprehensive energy plan based on innovation, conservation and exploration that will ensure America's national security and economic security.

**H.R. 522, FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2003.** Contains many reforms, and merges the FDIC's two funds -- the Bank Insurance Fund and the Savings Association Insurance Fund -- into a single, stronger fund that better protects depositors. At my request, this legislation contained a provision which ensures that municipal deposits are adequately protected by the FDIC well beyond the 100,000 dollar level as public funds are the taxpayer's dollars and should not be left at risk.

**H.R. 8, DEATH TAX REPEAL PERMANENCY ACT OF 2003.** I joined with 196 of my colleagues in introducing this important legislation to make permanent the repeal of the death tax.

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**H.R. 2420, MUTUAL FUNDS INTEGRITY AND FEE TRANSPARENCY ACT.** I joined with 5 of my colleagues in introducing this important legislation providing investors with more disclosure about their money in mutual funds and enhances corporate governance of fund management.

**H.R. 4181, MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX BILL.** I joined with 55 of my colleagues in introducing this important piece of legislation to permanently extend the increased standard deduction for Married Taxpayers filing joint returns, thereby saving money for millions of American married couples.

**H.R. 660, SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003.** I joined with 75 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to improve access to affordable, quality health insurance for millions of American small business workers and their families.

**H.R. 3717, BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2004.** I joined with 25 of my colleagues in introducing legislation which increases the fines that the FCC can levy against media companies who broadcast profane material over the public airwaves.

**H.R. 4227, MIDDLE-CLASS ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2004.** I joined with 82 of my colleagues in cosponsoring legislation lowering taxes for millions of Americans by extending the higher Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption amounts that were enacted in the Bush Tax Cuts.

**H.R. 4359, CHILD CREDIT PRESERVATION AND EXPANSION ACT OF 2004.** I joined with 54 of my colleagues in sponsoring this important bill preventing the child tax credit from dropping from \$1,000 per child to \$700 next year and to \$500 in 2011. This bill will make the \$1,000 child tax credit permanent.

**H.R. 3365, FALLEN PATRIOTS TAX RELIEF ACT.** I joined with my colleagues in passing an increase of the death gratuity payable to deceased members of the Armed Forces and provides additional tax relief to Armed Forces members.

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## For Your Protection: New Rule to Make Trains More Visible to Motorists

As a result of federal studies ordered by Congress, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced a final ruling which requires reflective materials to be installed on the sides of locomotives and freight trains. The new reflective materials will make trains more visible to motorists at railroad crossings.

According to the FRA, nearly one quarter of all crossing accidents involve vehicles collisions with the sides of trains. Placing reflective material on the sides of trains will prevent many of these avoidable tragedies while reducing the severity of accidents which may occur.

The FRA regulation requires that within 5 years, all locomotives, and within 10 years, all freight rail cars be fitted with yellow or white reflective materials. The materials will be installed during production on all new cars and during repairs on any existing cars.



Since 1994, the number of vehicle-train collisions has decreased 41 percent and the number of fatalities as a result of a crash has reduced 47 percent. The recent changes initiated by the Federal Railroad Administration will greatly improve the safety of these crossings for everyone in the Fifth District.

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## Focus on the Fifth: Two District Fire Departments Receive Over \$292,000 in December Grants

In the past month, two district volunteer fire departments received \$292,410 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness.

These funds, made available by Congress, will be used to increase the effectiveness of fire fighting operations, fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, EMS programs, and fire prevention and safety programs. The awards will be used towards training, equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.



The two fire departments receiving awards throughout December include:

City of Napoleon	\$67,500
Village of Stryker	\$224,910

These grant monies will improve the effectiveness of firefighters in each of the two areas and benefit citizens across the Fifth District of Ohio. Firefighters play a critical role ensuring the safety of our communities and these moneys will help to deliver the resources necessary to excel in their mission.

## Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.